

Message Text

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SUBJECT: TELEVISION TAPING OF ROY CLARK SHOW

REF: MOSCOW 1720, MOSCOW 1645

1. AS MENTIONED REFTELS, STATE COMMITTEE FOR RADIO AND TELEVISION ARRANGEMENTS TO RECORD FOR LATER TELEVISION BROADCAST FEBRUARY TWO ROY CLARK PERFORMANCE WERE ABORTED BY UNILATERAL GOSKONTSERT DEMAND FOR FIVE THOUSAND RUBLE FEE. AT TIME SITUATION WAS DEVELOPING EMBASSY BROUGHT TO ATTENTION APPROPRIATE LEVELS AT MIN CULT AND MFA CULT DIV, BUT INSUFFICIENT TIME REMAINED TO RESOLVE ISSUE AND TAPING ARRANGEMENTS FELL THROUGH. ON FEBRUARY FOUR EMBASSY PRESENTED NON-PAPER TO MFA CULT DIV DESCRIBING INCIDENT. EMBASSY ALSO STRESSED MFA CONCERN IN MATTER IN THEIR CAPACITY FOR OVERSIGHT OF CULTURAL AGREEMENT. ON FEBRUARY SIX EMB SENT DIPLOMATIC NOTE TO MINCULT, WHICH MFA DESCRIBED AS RESPONSIBLE MINISTRY ON THIS ISSUE.

2. TEXT OF DIPLOMATIC NOTE FOLLOWS:

"THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS AND CALLS TO ITS ATTENTION
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A RECENT VIOLATION OF THE TELEVISION-RECORDING CLAUSE

OF THE CONTRACT BETWEEN GOSKONTSERT AND THE EMBASSY REGARD-
ING THE ROY CLARK SHOW'S VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION, JANUARY
18 TO FEBRUARY 3, 1976.

THIS TOUR WAS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE AGREEMENT ON
CULTURAL RELATIONS CURRENTLY IN FORCE BETWEEN THE USSR
AND THE USA.

ON THE INSISTENCE OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT,
AMERICAN PERFORMING ARTS GROUPS VISITING THE SOVIET UNION
UNDER THIS CULTURAL AGREEMENT REGULARLY HAVE DONATED
THEIR SERVICES TO SOVIET STATE TELEVISION FOR THE RECORD-
ING OF ONE OF THEIR PERFORMANCES FOR LATER REBROADCAST.
THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND THE PERFORMING
ARTS GROUPS BELIEVED THIS DONATION OF SERVICES TO BE A
USEFUL CONTRIBUTION TO THE CULTURAL EXCHANGE BETWEEN OUR
TWO COUNTRIES, AND CHARACTERISTIC OF THE COOPERATIVE
SPIRIT WHICH UNDERLIES THE AGREEMENT AND THE MANNER
IN WHICH IT IS CARRIED OUT.

AS IN THE PAST, ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE FOR
TAPING THE ROY CLARK SHOW ON FEBRUARY 2. LATE IN THE
DAY, HOWEVER, THE EMBASSY HEARD FROM SOVIET STATE
TELEVISION THAT GOSKONTSERT WAS ASKING FIVE THOUSAND
RUBLES FOR THE TAPING. SINCE THE ROY CLARK SHOW WAS
PROVIDING TELEVISION RIGHTS FREE OF CHARGE, THIS MONEY
WOULD REMAIN WITH GOSKONTSERT. STATE TELEVISION WAS
INFORMED THAT THE EMBASSY AND THE ROY CLARK SHOW HAD
NOT BEEN CONSULTED REGARDING ANY FEE TO BE CHARGED IN
THE SOVIET UNION. THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND THE CULTURAL
OFFICE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WERE SIMILARLY
INFORMED.

BECAUSE OF THIS FIVE THOUSAND RUBLE FEE ASKED BY
GOSKONTSERT, THE TELEVISION RECORDING WAS ABANDONED.
IN THIS MATTER GOSKONTSERT ACTED IN VIOLATION OF ARTICLE VI
OF THE CONTRACT BETWEEN IT AND THE EMBASSY, WHICH STATES:

'RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTS, THE TRANSCRIPTION
OF PERFORMANCES BY VIDEO-TAPY RECORDINGS, FILMS
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OR TAPE RECORDINGS CAN BE ARRANGED ONLY BY WAY
OF AN ADDITIONAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN GOSKONTSERT,
THE GOVERNMENT AND THE MANAGEMENT OF THE GROUP.'

RAISING SUCH AN OBSTACLE TO THE TELEVISION RECORDING
ALSO NEGATED THE SPIRIT OF ARTICLE V OF THE EXCHANGE ON
CULTURAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND THE
UNITED STATES, WHICH ENCOURAGES THE DEVELOPMENT OF

CONTACTS AND EXCHANGES OF ARTISTIC GROUPS IN ORDER TO
PROMOTE BETTER MUTUAL ACQUAINTANCE WITH THE CULTURAL
ACHIEVEMENTS OF EACH COUNTRY.

IN CALLING THIS MATTER TO THE ATTENTION OF THE
MINISTRY OF CULTURE, THE EMBASSY HOPES THAT FUTURE CONTRACTS
WITH GOSKONTSERT WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN LETTER AND
SPIRIT.

THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE ITS PRESENT
PRACTICE OF INCLUDING IN ITS CONTRACT WITH U.S.
PERFORMING ARTS GROUPS AN OBLIGATION BY THESE GROUPS TO
PROVIDE, FREE OF CHARGE, A TELEVISION RECORDING OPPORTUNITY
TO SOVIET STATE TELEVISION, TO ENABLE LATER REBROADCAST
FOR THE BENEFIT AND ENJOYMENT OF THE SOVIET PUBLIC.

THE EMBASSY TAKES THIS OCCASION TO RENEW TO THE
MINISTRY ASSURANCES OF ITS HIGHEST REGARDS.

THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
MOSCOW, FEBRUARY 6, 1976"
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